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NEW HUNGARIAN HEMP FACTORY BEGINS PRODUCTION

Szabad Nep
Budapest, 17 Jan 1954

Hemp is grown on 11,000 holds in Bekes Megye. Until recently, the large quantities of hemp had to be shipped a great distance to the production plants; now the hemp is processed within the megye and is eventually made into canvas, rope, sacks, and rags.

The Sarkadi Kendergyar (Sarkad Hemp Factory), constructed under the Five-Year Plan, opened on 16 January 1954. The total production of Hungarian hemp will now be increased by 8 or 10 percent. This factory will produce enough hemp fiber yearly for 200,000 halters and traces and 650,000 kilograms of rope, or 200,000 square meters of canvas and 800,000 bags.

Eager young laborers and competent old workers reported when the new factory opened. The latter had been employed by the old Sarkad Hemp Factory, which was dismantled in 1928. All the laborers wear clean brown work clothes, and working conditions are healthful. The dust from the processing is constantly absorbed by machine.

The Sarkadi Kendergyar, which cost 20 million forints, is not only one of the country's largest but also the most modern fiber-preparing plant. One of its remarkable features is an automatic hemp cleaner more than 35 meters long. At the front, broken hemp stalks are sucked in; at the end the blond, dust-free hemp fibers appear. The huge machine was designed by Hungarian engineers. It almost completely absorbs the dust, while the waste materials are deposited in the boiler room to be used as fuel.

The factory also contains pleasant bathrooms, washrooms, dressing rooms, and mess halls. A village erected for the workers, not far from the factory, comprises 13 attractive houses and 25 modern apartments.

Miklos Ajtai, Deputy Minister of Light Industry, gave the welcoming address at the opening celebrations. Following this, the machines began the actual hemp processing. Then the fibers were separated and finally packed for shipment to Szeged and Budapest, where further processing will take place.

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